Irregularities in the expenditure in AIIMS

*334. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated the 27th May, 1987 wherein it has been stated that some glaring irregularities in the working of the A.I.I.M.S. including excessive expenditure and diversion of plan funds have come to notice;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has since been taken by Government in regard thereto; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to improve the working of this Institution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The irregularities pointed out in the press report, and the action taken thereon as well as steps taken to improve the working of the Institute are given in the Statement laid on the Table of the Sabha. [*See* Appendix CXLII, Annexure No. 113]

Sharing of telephone facility in multi-storeyed complexes

*335. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

SHRI G. SWAMY NAIK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to introduce 'Share your telephone' scheme in multi-storeyed complexes;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to amend the Indian Telegraph Act; and

(d) whether Housing agencies and Housing Cooperatives are proposed to be encouraged to provide this facility as part of the common facilities like electricity, water, sanitation, watch and ward, maintenance of lifts etc.?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government, for introduction of 'Share your telephone' scheme in multi-storeyed complexes. However, a proposal for permitting Group PABXs to be owned and operated by a firm or a Cooperative Society for use of group of offices, Departments, Commercial and Industrial establishments or residents in a multi-storeyed building is under consideration of the Government. The details of the scheme have not yet been finalised.

Centrally sponsored scheme for vocational education

*336. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a centrally sponsored scheme is being launched from the current academic year for vocational education;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the role of the State Governments under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) A centrally sponsored scheme for vocationalisation of education at plus 2 stage is intended to be started from the current year. The scheme is being finalised. Since the schools are mostly set up and financially supported by the State Governments and the regulatory functions also vest in the

State agencies, the States would be closely involved in the planning and implementation under this scheme.

Jolarpettai-Erode and Salem-Mettur Dam railway electrification

*337. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jolarpettai-Erode and Salem-Mettur Dam (Tamil Nadu) railway electrification projects have been postponed;

(b) if so, when the project is likely to be taken up again; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the suspension of work involves the retrenchment of a large number of railway workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shipping service between Madras and Singapore

*338. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shipping Corporation of India has any proposals to resume passenger shipping service between Madras and Singapore; and

(b) if not, whether any other private shipping company is proposed to be permitted to operate such services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no objection to Director General Shipping permitting private shipping companies to operate this service subject to their fulfilling the statutory conditions. Director General of Shipping has conveyed no objection to 4 private companies in 1986-87 to operate the service subject to the ships selected by them possessing the requisite statutory certificates. No further progress has been reported by these companies.

Distributions of Pan Parag in IA flights

*339. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Pan Parag' is distributed free of cost to the Executive class on Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to allow other companies to distribute Pan Masalas or cigerettes in the flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Pan Masala by the trade name 'Pan Parag' has been introduced as part of the meal schedule for executive class passengers on Airbus flights. Indian Airlines is paying for the Pan Masala. It has been introduced on an experimental basis, and has been found accetpable to the passengers.

(c) The present policy of Indian Airlines does not permit any companies to distribute any edible items to passengers on flights.

Cancellation of South bound trains

*340. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two southbound trains Himsagar Express between Jammu-Tawi to Kanyakumari and Janata Express between Jammu-Tawi to Madras were cancelled with effect from 17th May, 1987;